Some of the steps taken by the Government to ensure remunerative prices to Karnataka farmers are:—

(i) Negotiating with Tobacco Trade for declaration of a Minimum Guaranteed Price (MGP) which is higher than the Minimum Support Price announced by the Government.

(ii) Conducting auctions thereby ensuring competitive bidding.

The average price relisation in the current Karnataka auctions has been Rs. 53.12 per kg. till date.

Inquiry into newsprint import

915. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether anti-dumping authority under the Ministry has held inquiry in the mater of import of newsprint from US, Canada and Russia following a petition filed by Indian Newsprint Manufacturers Association;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that domestic industry has suffered by such dumping alongwith names of units which have been closed and the ones which had to reduce production; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure that domestic industry is not subjected to injury in future and those responsible for above import are taken to task?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLIRAMAIAH): (a) to (c) The designated authority in the Ministry of Commerce has initiated anti-dumping investigations on 20.12.96 against imports of newsprint from USA, Canada and Russia based on a petition filed by Indain Newsprint Manufacturers Association. Under the provisions of customs Tariff Act and the rules made thereunder, the authority follows a quasi-judicial procedure taking into account submissions made by all the interested parties before making any recommendations. The investigations in the case of newsprint are in progress and no provisional or final findings have been announced so far.

देश में चाय का उत्पादन

916. **श्रीमती मालती शर्मा** : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान देश में चाय का कुल कितना उत्पादन हुआ और उसका वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) देश में चाय की प्रति वर्ष घरेलौउ खपत कितनी है; और

(ग) चाय उत्पादक राज्यों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (डा. बोला मुल्ली रमैया) : (क) तथा (ख) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान देश में चाय की खपत और उत्पादन निम्नांकित है:-

वर्ष	उत्पादन (मिलियन कि.ग्रा.)	घरेलू खपत (मिलियन कि.ग्रा.)
1994	752.89	580
1995*	753.92	595
1996*	780.03	613

*अनुमानित
स्रोत : चाय बोर्ड

(ग) चाय के मुख्य उत्पादक राज्य है: असम, पश्चिमी बंगाल, तमिलनाडु केरल और कर्नाटक। इनके अतिरिक्त चाय का उत्पादन त्रिपुरा, बिहार, उत्तरप्रदेश, हिमाचल प्रदेश, सिक्किम, उड़ीसा, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, मणिपुर और नागालैंड में भी होता है।,

WTO's Committee on balance of payment

917. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of the World Trade Organisations' Committee on balance of: payments was held in January, 1997;